

Published by the **Albany Amateur
Radio Association**

JUNE 2017

B-Plus

AARA

Meets at the
Bethlehem Town Hall
445 Delaware Ave
Delmar, NY 12054

Fri. JUNE 9th

Social Hour 6:55 PM

refreshments
soda, coffee, cookies etc.

www.k2ct.net

**Affiliated with the American Radio Relay
League**

An ARRL Special Services Club
105th Year

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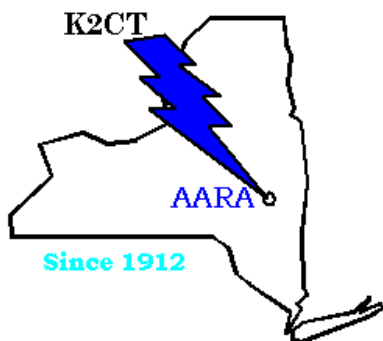
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MAY MEETING

Please PAY your Dues.

AARA preparing for
Field Day 2017 June 24-25 at
Hailes Cave Pavilion in
John Boyd Thacher State Park
Route 157 Voorheesville, NY
map page 3

Friday setup starts at 10AM
Sat. setup starts at 8:30AM
Operate 2PM – 2PM
SUNDAY take down starts at 1PM
and we need your help

What can you do to help out?

145.19 (-) MHz
pl tone 103.5Hz

AARA Dues

Dues cheerfully accepted,
Dues are \$20.

B-PLUS Newsletter sent via the
K2CT Web page in .pdf format
www.k2ct.org

Checks should be made out to
AARA and sent to:

Saul Abrams, K2XA
307 Maple Rd.
Slingerlands, NY 12159

Contesting

+JULY

RAC Canada Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1
DL-DX RTTY Contest	1100Z, Jul 1 to 1059Z, Jul 2
Marconi Memorial HF Contest	1400Z, Jul 1 to 1400Z, Jul 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Jul 2
FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 8
IARU HF World Championship	1200Z, Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9
DMC RTTY Contest	1200Z, Jul 15 to 1200Z, Jul 16
North American QSO Party, RTTY	1800Z, Jul 15 to 0600Z, Jul 16
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Jul 17
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 26
RSGB IOTA Contest	1200Z, Jul 29 to 1200Z, Jul 30

+AUG.

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB	0001Z, Aug 5 to 2359Z, Aug 6
European HF Championship	1200Z-2359Z, Aug 5
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Aug 5 to 0600Z, Aug 6
SARL HF Phone Contest	1300Z-1630Z, Aug 6
WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 12 to 2359Z, Aug 13
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 12 to 2400Z, Aug 13
SARTG WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Aug 19 to 1600Z, Aug 20
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	0600 local, Aug 19 to 2400 local, Aug 20
North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Aug 19 to 0600Z, Aug 20
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Aug 21
Hawaii QSO Party	0700Z, Aug 26 to 2200Z, Aug 27
SCC RTTY Championship	1200Z, Aug 26 to 1159Z, Aug 27
YO DX HF Contest	1200Z, Aug 26 to 1200Z, Aug 27
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 26 to 0400Z, Aug 27
SARL HF CW Contest	1400Z-1600Z, Aug 27

+SEPT.

All Asian DX Contest, Phone	0000Z, Sep 2 to 2400Z, Sep 3
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Sep 2
AGCW Straight Key Party	1300Z-1600Z, Sep 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z-1700Z, Sep 3
MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z, Sep 4 to 0300Z, Sep 5
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 9
WAE DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Sep 9 to 2359Z, Sep 10
ARRL September VHF Contest	1800Z, Sep 9 to 0300Z, Sep 11
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 10

www.k2ct.org

AARA is on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
AlbanyK2CT/](http://www.facebook.com/AlbanyK2CT/)

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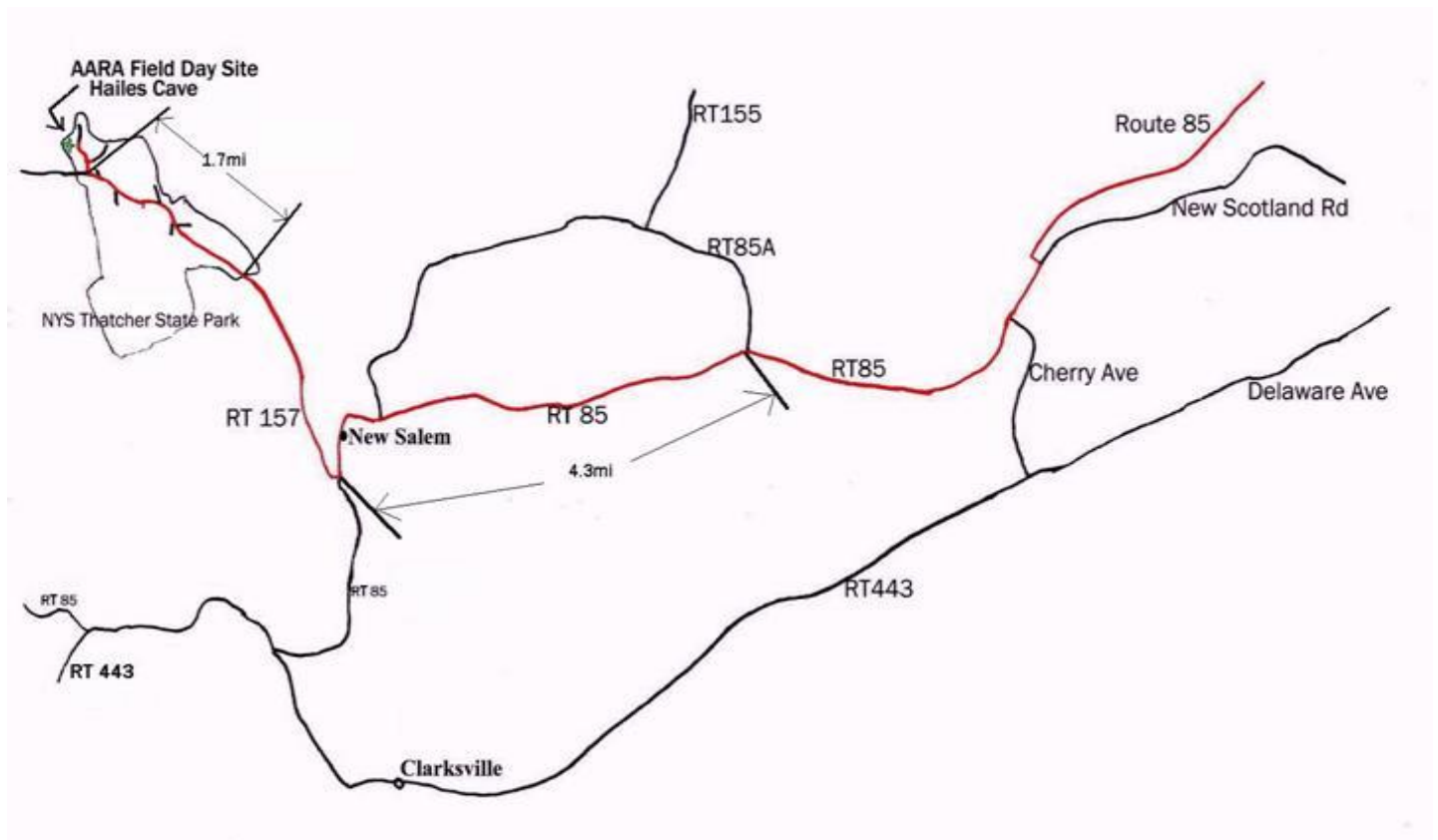
307 Maple Rd.

Slingerlands, NY 12159

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Field Day 2017 June 24-25 at
Hailes Cave Pavilion in Thatcher State Park



FCC and OSHA Releases TOWER BEST PRACTICES GUIDE ARRL 06/01/2017

The FCC and OSHA have announced the release of a free publication, **Communications Tower Best Practices Guide**. While aimed more at those who tend commercial communication towers, the guide offers guidance applicable to the Amateur Radio community and contractors working on Amateur Radio antenna support structures. The FCC said the guide was a result of two tower safety workshops.

“Recognizing the risks that tower employees face, OSHA and the FCC held a workshop on communication tower employee safety on October 14, 2014,” the new guide explains. “During this workshop, industry stakeholders, along with employee safety advocates and the families of communication tower employees who had been killed on the job, gathered to discuss issues affecting the safety of communication tower employees.”

A second workshop followed in February 2016, during which a panel of industry stakeholders and advocates discussed best practices that could reduce injuries and fatalities among tower workers. “This document is a collection of the best practices gathered from those workshops and from the discussions that continued beyond those events,” the guide says.

Among other points, the guide emphasizes that all tower workers need “to have and use proper safety equipment at all times,” and that, “no work should be done if proper safety equipment is unavailable or if the safety equipment available is not functioning properly.”

ATVET Albany Troy Volunteer Examiner Team

If you can **HELP OUT**: call **Gerry, WA2IWW**

Contact ATVET LIAISON: Gerry, WA2IWW atvet@n2ty.org or **518-482-8700**

If you are interested in amateur radio, and would like to take the exam, the Albany/Troy VE Team (ATVET) stands ready to assist. ATVET is a joint effort of the Albany Amateur Radio Association (AARA), and the Troy Amateur Radio Association (TARA). We are affiliated with the ARRL/VEC, and have been proud to provide testing opportunities since 1984.

Exam Date	Day	Doors Open	Exam Time (Doors will Close)
July 12 TH, 2017	Wed	6:20 PM	7 PM
August 12 TH, 2017	Sat	9:30 AM	10 AM

Buildout of Nationwide First Responder Broadband Network Could Drive ARES Changes ARRL 06/01/2017

The First Responder Network Authority (**FirstNet**) — a nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders — could change the complexion of how the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) functions to support communication for responders during disasters and emergencies. As an independent authority within the US Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunication and Information Administration (**NTIA**),

FirstNet’s mission is to build out, deploy, and operate an interoperable nationwide broadband network dedicated to first responders. Ralph Haller, N4RH, the chairman of the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (**NPSTC**), told ARRL that the advent of FirstNet “will likely be as significant as when public safety first began using radio.”

“The nationwide network will be hardened, so that it will be more likely that many of today’s public safety systems remain operational in emergencies,” Haller said, pointing out that Amateur Radio should not expect to have

access to FirstNet. He cautioned, “The endurance of Amateur Radio systems in disasters has been a big selling point in the past for incorporating amateur operators in emergency plans, but perhaps not so much in the future.”

NPSTC is a federation of organizations that work toward improving public safety communication and interoperability, and ARRL has a seat on NPSTC’s Governing Board. Haller predicted that Amateur Radio’s role in emergencies will not disappear. “There is no substitute for eyes and ears on the ground in an emergency,” he said, adding that radio amateurs “can and should continue to play an important part” in supporting emergency communication.

“Amateur operators can continue to provide valuable information to emergency operations centers in the recovery phase of disasters,” he said. “Whether that intelligence gathering is reporting on storm clouds, power outages, or road closures, amateurs can help provide critical, real-time information about conditions over a vast area. While first responders are treating the injured or protecting life and property, the amateur community can concentrate on assessing the overall picture.”

On March 30, FirstNet and the Commerce Department announced a 25-year partnership with AT&T as the primary contractor to make FirstNet a reality. “The ability to communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions is critical for law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) when securing large events or responding to emergencies and disasters,” a Commerce Department news release said. “In those instances, networks can become overloaded and inaccessible, limiting responders’ use of vital communication technologies, such as smartphones and applications dedicated to public safety services.”

Public safety agencies already use commercial wireless networks, such as AT&T and Verizon, to supplement their own radio systems and networks, although such communication is not point to point. FirstNet is initially targeted primarily to provide video and data, with

mission-critical voice communication at least a decade away. EMS is likely to become a heavy user of the network, which will employ voice command functions a la Siri or Alexa.

“Be sure the public safety organizations never forget how valuable the amateurs are!” —
NPSTC Chairman Ralph Haller, N4RH

Inevitably there will be coverage gaps, and the development of “deployables” is critical. These devices can expand the network to areas it doesn’t cover but where it may be needed for a specific incident. Deployables could include satellites — Inmarsat is a member of the AT&T team. Network security and encryption is a high priority. The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) now uses encryption on its data nets.

While images in the form of digital Amateur Radio television (DATV) and a plethora of digital modes are available to ARES, FirstNet could nudge ARES to more quickly adopt a similar approach. A new generation of radio amateurs steeped in data, image, and video technology is likely to drive ARES to think beyond analog.

Haller advised that the Amateur Radio community should continue to work closely with public safety organizations at all levels to assure that they remain a part of emergency plans.

“The hype about broadband should not result in amateurs inadvertently being swept under the rug,” Haller stressed. “Be sure the public safety organizations never forget how valuable the amateurs are!”

FirstNet will use spectrum at 700 MHz — no immediate threat to Amateur Radio allocations, although there is no guarantee that this won’t change as the network approaches the shift to 5th generation (5G) technology. Amateur Radio has access to significant spectrum above 700 MHz.

The expectation is that within a couple of years, a nationwide “core” network will be ready to roll out, and the first public safety users will be on board. Some regional networks have been set up for proof-of-concept purposes and to work out wrinkles. — *Thanks to Mike Corey, K1IU, and Ralph Haller, N4RH*



Pics by Bud, WF2B



Pic by Dave KC2RPU

Are You Changing Your Address: Please contact Walt, WA1KKM 456-3637 or via e-mail sue.walt@dososaur.com with your address corrections

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